(b) There is no fixed time frame for providing re-employment to ex-Servicemen. Government is having a number of resettlement schemes for ex-Servicemen which include reservation in Government jobs, grant of loan/financial assistance for setting up for self-employment ventures, training programmes to improve employability after retirement or release from service, formation of ex-Servicemen coal transport companies and ex-Servicemen security agencies, etc. Ex-Servicemen seeking employment assistance register their names with the concerned Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board. On receipt of intimation of vacancies, Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board sponsor names of those ex-Servicemen who fulfil the eligibility criteria of the post(s) to the recruiting agency for their consideration.

(c) No case has been brought to the notice of Directorate General Resettlement, the nodal agency looking after the resettlement of ex-Servicemen, where ex-Servicemen have been denied jobs on account of non-payment of bribes.

(d) The Directorate General Resettlement has a network of Rajya Sainik Boards at the State Level and Zila Sainik Boards at the District level who have the onus of resolving various problems related to resettlement of ex-Servicemen. Ex-servicemen can have redressal of their grievances through Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Boards/Directorate General Resettlement in case they are demanded bribe by the recruiting agency.

Tender for supply of rockets

811. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had invited tender for the supply of rockets to Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount for which the tender was awarded and name of the vender;

(d) whether the tender was not awarded to the lowest bidder and if so, the justification thereof; and

(e) the extra amount paid as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) IAF procure a wide range of rockets, depending on its needs, from time to time. The details of vendor, contract etc. can only be provided if the specific type of rocket, and the transaction is indicated.

Recruitment in Officers Cadre in IAF

812. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of officers in Indian Air Force and people are not showing interest in joining the services;

(b) if so, steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the recruitments made in the officers cadre during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is some shortage of officers in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and colleges are regularly visited by service officers to generate interest among qualified youth alongwith motivational campaigns. A website is also operational on the internet to provide career information.

(c) In the calendar year 2003, 347 officers have already been commissioned in the IAF and 127 more are likely to be commissioned during December, 2003.

Development schemes for naxalite affected districts

†813. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently prepared any scheme for development of the districts affected by the naxalite movements;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that further allocation of Rs, 2,475 crore has been made for the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details of the said scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.